argus eyes

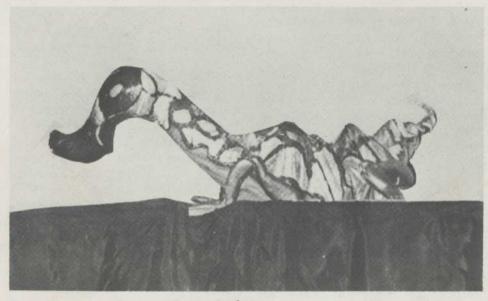
Volume 7, No. 27

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

December, 1951

STRONG FUTURE IS KEYNOTE AT ANNUAL DINNER

CHRISTMAS PARTY WILL FEATURE SANTA CLAUS AND MARIONETTES



- Applesauce -

Santa will again ring in the Christmas season at the annual Children's Christmas Party. The party will be held in Slauson Auditorium, on Saturday afternoon, December 15.

This years party will feature Ed Johnson's Marionettes in a play called "Neptunes Kingdom." Freckles is the name of the hero of "Neptune's Kingdom." He is a 12 year old grandson of a lighthouse keeper. He often wished he could see the bottom of the ocean.

One day while Freckles was fishing Gee Whizzer, the gremelin, happened to swim too close and got himself caught by the tail. As a result Freckles and Gee Whizzer became acquainted, and Gee Whizzer took his new friend to the bottom of the sea for a visit.

While on the ocean's floor Freckles and Gee Whizzer became separated from one another and Freckles did not know how to get back to the lighthouse. He made friends with many of the undersea creatures and they led him to the throne of King Neptune who, it was thought, would help him.

Poor Freckles! Not only had he been turned into a fish, but he was lost and friendless. After a while he also became terribly hungry. He spied a delicious looking worm, and being a mere fish did not realize that it was a baited hook. He grabbed the worm and was quickly dragged to the surface. All was not as bad as it may seem, however, for the fisherman turned out to be Freckles' grandfather. As soon as he reached the surface, Freckles became once again a little boy.

Neptune, however, decreed that inasmuch as Freckles had come to his kingdom he must remain there and be one of his subjects. He changed our hero into a tuna fish.

Here is a surprise for the kiddies -Applesauce will be back again this year.

The highlight of the kids festivities, as it has been for the last three years, will be the arrival of Santa Claus. He will have gifts for the children, Candy will also be distributed.

If you haven't left the names and ages of your children in the Personnel Office, please do so as early as possible. At the largest Company Dinner in Argus history, over 700 employees received a report of extremely favorable current operations and future outlook from President, Bob Lewis.

Marking the 20th anniversary of Argus, Mr. Lewis said that the Company has achieved a very solid position in the photographic industry. He pointed out that the name ARGUS has a growing value each year and that it is highly respected by dealers and customers all over the world.

Argus facilities, too, are growing, and according to Mr. Lewis, "the completion of our new addition gives us one of the finest and certainly the most modern optical plants in the country."

Tribute to Employee Efforts

In reporting on the highly satisfactory state of current operations, Mr. Lewis also reflected on the many problems which faced the Company as little as two years ago. Reviewing the recent growth, he said, "You should all be proud of your accomplishments since our first Company Dinner in 1949."

Profit Sharing at \$1,000,000

Reporting on the Profit Sharing Fund, Mr. Lewis, said that the fund had now reached the astronomical figure of one million dollars, including the 1950-51 contributions which were the largest in history.

He also pointed out that the 3 year waiting period was established at the origin of the plan and could not now be changed. However; in considering this factor, it was indicated that most plans of this type pay off fully only at age 65, whereas the Argus fund pays completely after 23 years of employment or at age 60 or when disabled.

On this subject, Mr. Lewis said, "It is not so important when you get in, as when you get paid." From this point of view, the 3 year waiting period does not make the profit sharing plan any less desirable.

(Continued on page 7)

ARGUS EYES

Argus Eyes is published for the employees of Argus Cameras, Inc. and their families.

It is intended to be a means of friendly communication between them, and to provide a reliable source of information concerning the company's business.

Beverly Bullis of the Personnel department makes sure that news is gathered and that pictures are obtained and arranged in readable fashion for publication about the 10th of each month.

Charles A. Barker, "Jimmy" to all, is Art Director and Art Consultant. The profiles are done by Harry Rookes.

Sam Schneider of the Photographic Department furnishes pictures.

Reporters for this month's Argus Eyes were: Jim Meldrum, Babe Peterson, Jim Rohrbaugh, Art Parker, Jr., Joe Brahm, Bill Sturgis, and Bill Patton.

NEW ADVERTISING MANAGER



- Arnold MacDonald -

The Company's new Advertising Director is Arnold MacDonald. Arnold is a man of considerable advertising experience, having come to Argus from the International Silver Company, of Meridan, Connecticut, where he spent ten years in the Advertising Department.

The new advertising director is a native of North Scituate, Rhode Island. He is a graduate of Brown University, in Providence, Rhode Island. A veteran of four years service in the Navy, he spent three years as a line officer on escort vessels in the Pacific.

Incidentally, Arnold's bachelor days are nearing an end. He plans to be married December 22.



By R. E. Lewis

I certainly enjoyed seeing the fine turnout for the Annual Dinner. It is hard to realize the number of people who are now members of the Argus family until almost all are seated in one room. I welcomed the opportunity of reviewing the highlights of the last several years activities as well as discussing our future opportunities.

It was a source of great satisfaction to present watches to our twenty year people. Because of the highly seasonal operations of the Company during its early years and the lack of clear records, it may be possible that several people were overlooked. A careful review of the records will be made. My feeling is that service award presentations can be made under more liberal interpretation than purely the establishment of seniority records. If, under such interpretation, additional people qualify, they will receive a service award at our next Annual Dinner. It would be an excellent idea for everyone with long service to check his seniority date. We will look into any discrepancies brought to our attention. There is nothing that gives more pleasure than the recognition of long service. People with long service are the backbone of a growing company.

Further Material Cuts Possible

The National Production Authority has been talking of further reductions in the use of aluminum and brass. The National Association of Photographic Manufacturers, of which Argus is a member, is doing its utmost to convince the NPA of the importance to the country of the precision optical industry. We have been successful thus far and are hopeful that any further reduction in materials will not be drastic. Even if there is a substantial material cut, it would not have a sudden effect because we have a reasonable amount of material in process in addition to the current allotment.

The material shortage for commercial production is counterbalanced somewhat by the increase in government production. Production for the M-18 is just getting under way. The M-18 is a gunsight used on a multiple gun antiaircraft vehicle. The M-19 tank periscope is just now being readied for production.

Moves into the new plant are almost completed. The Glass Blocking Department is the next major move. Following that, the centering department can be moved.

Commercial Sales Near Record High

There has been a tremendous demand for the C3 and 75. The acceptance of the Argus name in consumer circles is proof of the tremendous influence exerted by advertising. During October, for the first time in many years, the monthly shipments were over \$1,000,000 and 90% of this was in commercial business.

We are currently collecting the necessary data for the preparation of the petition for certain changes in wage rate classifications and improvements in benefits. This petition will have to be approved by both the Wage and Salary Stabilization Boards. We have proposed these changes in line with the Argus policy of keeping pace with area wages and benefits. I am a firm believer in good pay, good working conditions and the recognition of the individual. The foundation of success of any company is the spirit shown within its group in meeting the multitude of daily problems. We have a fine spirit here at Argus. With it we can all look forward to secure and prosperous employment.

ASK ANDY ARGUS

Hi Gang--

It's me again, your old supersnooper friend Andy. I've been back in Argus Eyes the last two issues with some behind the scenes stories on money business. Next month I'll be back with another look at an Argus activity. But that's easy--I'm looking for some tough assignments.

andy argus

Answers are my hobby. I just love to dig them out. If you've got a question—anything you don't understand or agree with at Argus—just let me know and watch me go.

To make it easy, I'm putting up an "Ask Andy Argus" box at the main entrance to each plant. All you have to do is jot down your question and drop it in the box. Then I'll go to work and come up with the straight dope you want.

From here on in, you don't have to say "I'll be xx#*'-* if I can understand why they do that," all you have to do is Ask Andy Argus and watch this column in the next issue.

IMPROVED BENEFITS AND SOME RATE ADJUSTMENTS ARE PROPOSED

As announced at the Annual Argus Dinner by Mr. R. E. Lewis, changes in several wage rate classifications to conform to changes in the area, and substantial changes in benefits will be petitioned for before the Wage and Salary Stabilization Boards. These proposals are in keeping with the Argus policy of maintaining wages and benefits equal to or better than those offered by other companies in this area. The Company is anxious to put these improvements into operation immediately, but must wait for approval by the Wage and Salary Stabilization Board.

Every effort will be made to gain this approval in the shortest possible time. Highlights of the proposals are outlined below:

Increased Guarantee for Incentive Jobs

For all incentive production employees who have completed a ninety (90) day probationary period, the Company will guarantee their earnings average not to fall below 70 minutes when averaged over each two (2) week pay period.

Selected Rate Increases Where Allowable

In line with our Argus policy of maintaining hourly base rates at area levels, the area rates will again be studied. We will petition for increases for those Argus jobs in which there has been a rate change.

Two and One Half Time for Holidays Worked

In the event it is necessary for an employee to work on a paid holiday (New Years, Memorial Day, July Fourth, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas), he will be compensated at one and one half times his earned rate for those hours worked in addition to receiving his regular holiday pay.

Increased Report-in Pay

A minimum of four (4) hours pay will be granted to employees who report for work and who have not been notified not to report for work except where the lack of work results from causes beyond the control of the Company. The Company may place these employees for whom work is not available on any jobs during the minimum period.

New Call-in Pay Feature

Should it be necessary to call an employee in to work following his regularly scheduled shift hours without prior notice, the Company will guarantee a minimum of two (2) hours pay.

Extra Vacation for Old Timers

The proposed vacation plan will be based on the June I to June I vacation year. For employees with nine (9) months to five years service on June I, as indicated in the published seniority records, vacation pay will be 2% of total straight time earnings during the twelve months ending June I. For employees with from five (5) to fifteen (15) years service, 4% will be paid and for employees with fifteen (15) and more years service 6% will be paid. The "yearly straight time earnings" means straight time hourly earned rate (including incentive pay for incentive employees) for all hours worked, including overtime hours, during the year.

Salaried Vacation Plan

The proposed vacation plan for salaried employees will include a three week paid vacation for those employees with 15 or more years service.

More Liberal Group Insurance

An improved group insurance plan will be announced at a later date.

TWO ARGUS MEN GO TO EUROPE TO DEVELOP NEW SUPPLY SOURCES

NORM SYMONS AND JAN VAN DEN BROEK WILL KEEP PRODUCTION AT FULL PEAK

In order to stretch our limited supply of critical materials, N. L. Symons and Jan Van Den Broek have left for Europe to check on foreign sources for camera parts. They are calling on part manufacturers in Germany and Switzerland who can make components that are now purchased in this country.

Norm and Van should make a good team. Norm will investigate these companies from a Purchasing Agent's point of view. Van will supply his engineering skill in answering questions on tolerances and dimensions. They should ably represent Argus Cameras and will be in an excellent position to find out what is available from those potential vendors.

Under the present N.P.A. regulations on brass, aluminum and steel, no allot-ments are required on complete parts imported into this country. If they are successful, it will mean we can make more cameras and projectors from our reduced allotments.

We received the following post-card from Norm:

Dear Gang -

Just a note to let you know all is well in Germany. Trip is successful so far. Things move slowly over here but still hope to be home by 12/25. Will know the early part of December. Going to Munich next week; following week to Switzerland. Will drop you a card from there.

Sincerely,

It certainly sounds like he's working hard at his assignment, but who wouldn't when he knows everyone at Argus will be reading his postcards!

THANK YOU

"I would, in this way, like to express my thanks and appreciation for all the acts of kindness shown me during my stay in the hospital."

-- Dorothy Lixey

700 EMPLOYEES ENJOY COMPANY DINNER



Dave Norton - Dick Foster

Barbara Weidman - Will VanDyke - Eve Loy

ARGUS EMPLOYEES ADOPT WOUNDED KOREAN VETS

Early this fall a letter was received from Mrs. Elna Soderwall of Oakland, California who has been visiting wounded Marine Korean veterans in one of the amputee wards at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital, Oakland, California.

This letter requested help in securing a tripod for Jim Huntington, a Marine triple amputee, who is the proud owner of an Argus C-4 Camera. Mrs. Soderwall felt that a tripod would help Jim steady the camera, since his physical disability makes it difficult for him to take good pictures. Personnel in the Sales, Accounting, Purchasing and Administration offices were contacted and asked if they wished to contribute to a fund to secure the tripod for Jim. The amount needed was substantially over-subscribed by this small group. As a result, a supply of color film and flash bulbs was sent Jim along with the tripod, and a Christmas gift is to be sent to him.

Dear Friends.

I can never express my appreciation to you and your associates for your immediate and warm-hearted response to my letter about Jim Huntington. You have no idea what your generosity will mean to Jim and the boys in Ward 42-B. I wrote you strictly on the spur of the moment, and as soon as the letter was posted I was assailed by doubts as to the propriety of such a request. So I was completely overwhelmed by your interest and marvelous generosity.

Your letter was too wonderful to keep to myself. Everyone I showed it to found it inspiring and it brought tears to the eyes of many. The manager of the Emporium in San Francisco, where I am employed, thought that the letter should be sent to the newspapers. I know that it would have been an inspiration to everyone—however I was afraid to publish it for fear it might make you the target of endless requests.

When your letter arrived last Monday I phoned to the hospital only to find that Jim had left the day before for a thirty day leave. The ward nurse promised to forward the packages to his home in Eugene, Oregon. However, when I went out there on my day off the following Friday I found that they had been so busy with new amputees flown in from Korea that they hadn't attended to it. I spent two hours at the base post office locating the tripod, and finally got it forwarded to Jim. I know he will enjoy using it at home. He has just gotten his artificial legs, and finds it very difficult to hold a camera steady. The films and flash bulbs were evidently in the "small package"

room where such mail for the boys on leave is kept. I couldn't get any action there so I'm afraid it will have to wait there until he returns. I wrote him the good news as soon as I heard from you, so I am sure he is looking forward to using them with a great deal of pleasure.

A number of boys in that ward are interested in photography. When we were out there today one legless youngster was taking flash shots with a C-3. Several of the patients make color transparencies, and I learned that the ward doctor and one of the nurses has a very fine collection of them. However they have no projector. The nurses and corpsmen thought it would be wonderful if the boys could have a projector which belonged not to the U.S. Navy, but to the ward. The doctors and nurses encourage the boys in any activity that will aid in their rehabilitation, and photography is highly rated. The boys in the amputee wards are there for a long, long time, so any gift to that ward is of real value. Jim came into the hospital the first of this year, and I am told that he still has about eight months more there.

Since you showed such an interest in Jim and his ward you might like to hear a little about the hospital and what we are trying to do there. It is an enormous place. There are probably a hundred and twenty-five or thirty buildings, most of them on steep hill sides. We are a middleaged couple with grown children. It occurred to us about a year ago that there must be many boys out here who were far away from home with no relatives or friends to visit them. If we could meet them and become their friends, then they would have someone. So I baked plenty of cookies, and out we went. Now I am known as "The Cookie Lady." The cookies are useful in getting acquainted. Sometimes a boy wants to talk and sometimes he doesn't. When they do we stay and listen. Sometimes a boy needs to get something off his chest--or he wants to talk about home--his girl friend--or his wife and baby. All too often there is a wife or fiancee who has lost interest after a boy has been maimed. There are many boys who have been shot through the neck and are completely paralyzed who need a great deal of encouragement. We have had the joy of seeing some of these make remarkable recoveries, and the sorrow of watching others lose the battle for life. They have become very dear to us and it is good to know that we have been able

to help them. We started with just one ward of about thirty-five boys, but we have followed them as they were transferred to other wards, until now we visit about eight wards. I go out on Friday, my only day off, and on Sundays we both go. In order to reach as many boys as possible we separate and go to different buildings. Jim Huntington and his ward "belong" to my husband although I go up there with him as often as possible. The paraplegics are my boys. They are so pitifully helpless that it is heartbreaking. Many of them can move only their eyes. We feel so privileged to be able to help them. The Red Cross and Gray Ladies do a wonderful job out there, but we have found that the boys also appreciate having a friend that is not a part of a charitable organization. If I were not working I would spend every afternoon at the hospital. However my job helps to pay for treats for the boys. They never ask for anything, but by keeping our ears open we learn of all sorts of things they want--such as grapes or fresh tomatoes in the middle of winter. We find them! One six-foot marine who weighed 104 pounds was unable to eat, and was sending all his trays back untouched. One day he said that he could eat if he could have a peanut butter and banana sandwich. It sounded pretty repulsive to us, but we brought them by the dozens until his appetite returned and he was able to eat the food that he needed.

Today we were told that they are expecting two hundred new amputees by hospital plane from Korea, Land mines were responsible for most of these. Now that the cold season has rolled around again in Korea I dread to think of the frostbite and gangrene amputations that will result.

It is hard to say which group of the wounded is the most heart-breaking--boys without arms or legs, men as helpless as babies from complete paralysis--or big six-foot "psychos" who have reverted to baby talk.

Well, I didn't intend to make this letter so long. When anyone shows the slightest interest in Oak Knoll Hospital I am off on the subject nearest to my heart. Perhaps the people here have become calloused due to the fact that there are so many military hospitals in the vicinity. Since 1941 we have seen ambulances tearing from ships and airports with the wounded. We are used to the sight of boys without arms or legs--or faces. Maybe that is why everyone says "I think it's

wonderful of you folks to go out there so much--I must bake some cookies one of these days," and promptly forgets all about it. It may surprise you to know that you people are the first ones who have ever done anything more than say "Poor boys." No words can express our gratitude for your kindness and interest in these Marines who went out as perfect physical specimens and returned to face life as mangled remains. May God bless you richly for your goodness.

Sincerely, Elna W. Soderwall

P.S. Should you send another package it would be better to register it.

Wouldn't you like to "adopt" an amputee ward at the hospital and send something to these boys at Christmas time? When you come to work tomorrow you will find containers in the cafeteria and at other strategically located points around the plant marked "Oak Knoll Naval Hospital Fund." You may make whatever contribution you desire at that time.

COMPANY DINNER (Continued from page 1)

New Wage and Benefits Announced

As a highlight of the report, Mr. Lewis reaffirmed the Company's policy of keeping pace with the area in all job benefits, and announced a liberal plan of improvements, permission for which is being requested from the government (details on page 3).

Speaking of plans for the future, Mr Lewis indicated that we are doing everything possible to prepare ourselves to be competitive with other companies, and are doing a good job of getting ready for the end of the sellers' market sometime in the future.

As to the months ahead, the report stated that demand for our civilian goods is far in excess of our ability to produce under material restrictions. Substitute materials and new supply sources are being prepared to avoid any difficulty from additional restrictions which may take place.

In addition, the increasing rate of production on defense work will offset any civilian cut back. All indications are that the Argus wheels will keep moving as fast as ever.

Mr. Lewis concluded his address on an optimistic note, stating, "By the Company following the policy of paying good wages, providing good benefits and working conditions, and employees doing a conscientious job, we are bound to be successfuland a successful company means good secure jobs."

MODEL PLANES EXHIBITED



A model airplane which can climb 2000 feet per minute was displayed in the hobby case recently. The builder, Clarence Korwin of the Standards and Methods Department, has been constructing these little planes since he was seven years old. More recently he has been concentrating on power models, and now has a collection of twenty-three model engines, ranging from a "small" one of one twelfth horsepower and a displacement of .045 cubic inch, to an engine of one and three quarters horsepower with a .60 cubic inch displacement.

Also displayed in the case was a basic model airplane kit, several engines, and a partially completed wing. The wing is a portion of a current project, the building of a radio controlled model plane. Clarence expects if all goes well this plane will be completed in the spring. He estimates that a model with a wing this size will take some 400 hours to complete. He is receiving assistance in the radio mechanisms from fellow worker Alex Azary.

Korwin's special field is free flight models. These are models which climb for a standard number of seconds, usually fifteen, then, with the motor cut, soar slowly back to the ground. The small model in the picture, which has the speedy rate of climb, has stayed aloft for times up to twelve minutes. Another type of plane, flown for speed, is controlled by the operator by means of wires to the plane. Clarence has constructed one of this type which flew 143 miles an hour, powered by a "souped" up one and three quarter horsepower motor.

Clarence generally starts with a standard model kit, then makes adaptations in the design to suit his own particular preference. He is also an avid sports car enthusiast.

BETWEEN THE DEADLINES

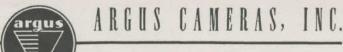
Argus bow and arrow hunters made a better showing than the rifle enthusiasts while deer hunting this year. Maybe it's the way they play the game. For example, on learning that Clint Harris had bagged a deer, Bill Wetzel immediately checked the location of the fallen deer so he could try out that spot the next day. As luck would have it--Bill returned to camp with a deer next morning. Bill also reserved this spot for the 1952 season.

Turkey for Thanksgiving was assured at Carolyn Cole's house this year. Carolyn won three of the birds one evening playing bingo. Herb Pfabe won one, too, in another raffle.

Uncle Sam sent his greetings to two Service Department families. Chuck Murphy and Betty Denton's husband, Paul, reported for their pre-induction physical Friday, November 16.

Christmas bells will be ringing wedding bells for Bill Rippel, Engineering, and Marion Reed, Service Department. They plan to be married Christmas Day at her home in Summit, New Jersey; then have a nice trip driving to Bill's home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Sounds like a nice Christmas vacation, doesn't it?

Ozzie Hoeft is eating venisonburgers these days. He brought back an eight pointer. George Berkimer is also a happy hunter because he came home with his deer too. Bud Farrell journeyed north well equipped, but didn't bag anything.



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BOWLING NEWS

After completing the first round of the 1951-52 schedule, the Argus bowling is developing into a dog-fight for the league leadership. As of this date, Quality Control and Paint Shop are the leaders with identical records of 31 wins while losing 17. Following closely on the heels of the leaders is the Ten Pins Five with a record of 30 and 18. The closeness of the race can be gained from a glance at the league standings at this time. There is only a seven game spread between the league leaders and the team that is now in eighth place. In this kind of league race the standings are scrambled after the results are posted after each Friday night's bowling. It has been some years since we have had so many teams in a contending position after this many weeks of bowling. Perhaps the reason for the torrid race this season is due to the fact that all of the entries have an added incentive to be at the top of the heap when the schedule is completed. Besides the monetary gain for the team winning the title, there are the individual awards to be given to the members of the winning team and the trophy which will have the names of the winning team engraved upon it. The individual awards as well as the trophy will be given in the same manner as the golfing awards were made last summer.

To show that the interest in bowling at Argus is very much in evidence, the afternoon shift has organized a six team league which is bowling at the Twentieth Century bowling alleys on Saturday afternoons. The race in this league is just as hot as the Friday night league, and the rivalries are building up rapidly. Congratulations to the members of both leagues for maintaining the Argus bowling leagues as the best of any industrial plant in Ann Arbor.

Donald Crump 1309 Miller Avenue Ann Arbor, Michigan

Anniversaries



ERIC SODERHOLM Inspection 15 years



LEONA SMITH Inspection 15 years



CHARLES WEIR Moving 10 years



Polishing 10 years



JOHN BILLAU Polishing 5 years



ART DERSHAM Service 5 years